



HI-Q

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

News from VA3WGD in Dryden.....

Hi Dave:

Just finished the testing at Ignace and I am rushing this off to you because I know that you are holding the press.

We now have **3 new amateurs** and I passed for my advanced ticket. 2 others were unavailable to write today and they will write next week.

New Amateurs are: Melody Kiss, John Andrews, and Kelvin Davenport.

Advanced: Wally Davenport (VA3WGD)

We would like to thank Lynn (VE3JBL) and Jim (VE3JNL) for Travelling to Ignace from Dryden for testing.

Thanks...Wally.

More "flea market talk" – followed by the English translation...

- the audio sounds great! – the 120 hz buzz is faithfully reproduced.
- it was just serviced!...I sprayed WD40 over all the wiring.
- this is a really good CW rig!...it doesn't work on SSB.
- it comes with the original box!...just scoop the kitty litter out.
- this rig was popular in its day!...they had many HF nets on repairing it. (tks VE3FLB....Ed.)

A silent key.....

James Peter Boyle, VE3DPJ, passed away on April 11th, just two days before his 79th birthday.

A lifetime resident of Thunder Bay, Peter spent most of his working life with the CNR. He was an enthusiastic member of the community, being a member of the LARC, Thunder Bay Field Naturalist CLUB, Rural 60 Plus (Kakabeka Falls), 55 Plus Centre, Senior Music Makers, Stroke Recovery Group, Avila Centre and the Knights of Columbus.

Peter had a lifelong love of learning and spent many hours close to his numerous nieces and nephews. One of the latter, **Bill Unger, VE3XT**, will present a more personal look at VE3DPJ in the next issue of HI-Q.

Thisn' that.....

So you're off to Dayton Hamvention this year? Lucky you! The post-banquet entertainment this year will feature the famous (or infamous) Smother Brothers, Tom and Dick. For you younger folk, they are best remembered for their stand-up comedy, "Smother Brothers Comedy Hour", which aired in the 1970's. (From SARC Newsletter).

Late news follow-up to the item on page 3.....

Young Willem van Tuyl was accepted at the Dallas Children's Centre for treatment without fee and then returned to Honduras. Local amateurs in Honduras have said they will cover his hospital expenses in La Saba. (Tks again to SARC Newsletter).

Down Memory Lane.....

Founding President P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW

LARC maintains the Club call **VE3FW**
to honour his memory.

Senate

Keith Fiske VE3JQ
Ray Forslund VE3EDZ
Ray Greer VE3CH
Dave Kimpton, VE3AVS
Bill Klemacki VE3AJ
Bill Roberts VE3ARN

Executive Board

President:	Ian Mellis	VA3RIM 577-1628
Vice Pres:	Ed Baumann.....	VE3SNW 622-1216
Secretary:	Norm Bell	VE3XRC 577-9316
Treasurer:	Jan Sokoloski.....	VA3JRS 344-3222
Directors:	Andy Malcolm	VE3INI 345-1858
	Eric Todd	VE3XET 626-9720
	Bob Hanson	VE3RVA 767-6924
	Pat Pugh.....	VA3PP 345-8562
Past Pres:	Terry Stewardson.....	VE3TKA 577-9439

Club Repeaters

VE3YQT 147.060 - OFFSET
VE3TBR 146.820 - OFFSET
VE3TBB 145.470 - OFFSET

Next Meeting – May 11th, 2000

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm every second Thursday of each month at Confederation College in Room 207B in the McIntyre Building .

HI-Q May 1994....probably the best editions of our club newsletter came out during this era.. 10 pages long....very well laid out...looked really professional!!! This was largely due to the work of its Editor, **VE3UA**. The new Northern Ontario Amateur Radio Call-Book was being advertised. This newer edition would include all amateurs who live in an area where the postal code begins with a “P”.

The LARC was to hold a Hamfest and Flea Market on August 1994 which would include a buffet breakfast, commercial exhibits, examiner testing, packet seminars, CW/QLF contest, and a guest speaker for the evening supper. The whole shootin’ match would be held at the Landmark with VE3’s **YTV**, **BBS** and **TKA** doing much of the organizing.

William Bell received the call **VA3NES** making it four licensees in the Bell Family! A very well-written article appeared courtesy of Ian, **VA3RIM**, describing operations at the Snowmobile 500 race that winter. It makes exciting reading as we look back at the huge amount of work that went into the races during those early years. That’s back when winters were **winters!**

Back in the Spring of “94, Pat, **VA3GD**, was dreaming of owning a 486 computer. He went for a 33 MHz 486 with 8 MB RAM onboard and a 270 MB hard drive. Not bad, eh?

VE3FLB and **VA3RIM** were to set up a station for the Boy Scout Jamboree being held at Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. **VE3BBS** was looking for operators for the Pre-Nordic World Cup Ski events. And the people restoring the James Whalen tug were asking LARC for help in setting up the radio room on the tug with a 1960’s era marine radio..... 73 de ve3avs

A corporate lesson to learn....a crow was sitting on a tree, doing nothing all day. A small rabbit saw the crow, and asked him, “Can I also sit like you and do nothing all day long?” The crow answered: “Sure, why not.” So the rabbit sat on the ground below the crow, and rested. Suddenly a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it. **Moral of the story:** To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be very, very high up. (Tks to **VE3ZG**).

Ham Radio Efforts Continue Following High-Seas Rescue

ARRL 1999 International Humanitarian Award winner Ed Petzolt, **K1LNC**, has appealed to the White House in efforts to expedite US medical aid for a 13-year-old boy seriously wounded by gunfire in an attack by pirates off Honduras. **Amateur Radio operators on the 20-meter Maritime Net** rallied to help get the injured youngster to safety following the attack Tuesday, after marauders had boarded his family's sailing sloop.

"Your help is urgently needed by these people to get their son to the US so that he may live," Petzolt said in a follow-up e-mail message today to the White House Agency Liaison. Young Willem van Tuyl of the Netherlands now is in a hospital in La Saba, Honduras, after being transported by the Honduran Navy and a medevac helicopter in a rescue effort aided by **Amateur Radiocommunications**. The boy underwent surgery yesterday in La Saba. Doctors there have recommended he be taken to the US for further treatment for his serious and potentially life-threatening injuries. Willem--the son of Jacco and Jannie van Tuyl, **KH2TD** and **KH2TE** respectively--was injured when one of four or five pirates opened fire on the teen and his father while they were in an inflatable dinghy, not far from their 44-foot sailing sloop. The group of pirates also attempted to tie up the boy's mother, who had remained aboard the sailboat while the father and son went to visit another vessel anchored nearby.

Jacco van Tuyl said the family was anchored behind a reef at the time, in open water some 50 miles off the coast of Honduras. Neither van Tuyl nor his wife was injured. van Tuyl said the pirates took the damaged dinghy and outboard and left the scene soon after the shooting. After calling for help on the Maritime Net, van Tuyl spent the night Tuesday in the company of two other vessels, getting to a spot where he could rendezvous with a Honduran Navy vessel and get his son to a hospital. The transfer took place Wednesday

morning when the Honduran boat picked up both the mother and son. Amateurs in the US--alerted to the incident by the Maritime Net activity--had contacted the US Coast Guard, which, in turn got in touch with Honduran authorities who came on frequency to coordinate the rescue effort with van Tuyl. A ham-doctor, Jim Hirschman, K4TCV, in Miami, also provided the family with on-the-air medical advice. Petzolt was later able to phone patch the van Tuyls via Amateur Radio so they could discuss their son's current condition.

Still in his boat, Jacco van Tuyl has been under way to French Harbor, about 50 miles from the hospital. Hams and sailors in French Harbor reportedly have alerted the local customs officials. van Tuyl hopes to be at his son's bedside this evening. Doctors reportedly have told the family that if Willem does not get proper medical followup within the next day or two, it could lead to irreversible complications.

Only in Canada (de VA3SAM)

-do we order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a diet Coke

-do banks leave their doors wide open but chain their pens to the counters

-is your kids Halloween costume designed to fit over a snowsuit

-do you owe more money on your snowmobile than on your car

-does your snowblower get stuck on the roof!

More news of interest to amateurs

Hans - K0HB wrote:

PORTISHEAD RADIO/GKA, the United Kingdom's long range radio station and one of the world's most famous names in the maritime communications field, is scheduled to close at **1200z** on **Sunday 30th April 2000**.

Radio Amateurs should now get their antennas and rigs tuned up for a once-only CW event. With the station using it's multi-kilowatt transmitters at Rugby and it's remote receiving array at Somerton, the station's Radio Officers at Burnham hope to bring you, from the comfort of your own radio shack, the chance to communicate directly with the before the station's transmitters fall silent for the final time.

This cw-only event is scheduled for **Saturday 29th April 2000** from **0700z to 1900z**.

Callsign	Frequency	Amateur Frequency +or-5kHz
GKB2	4274	3525
GKB4	8559.5	7025
GKB5	12835.4	14050
GKB6	17113	18075
GKB7	22448.7	21050

There will be three stations operating at any one time - subject to the commercial requirements of the station.

BT has appointed the Radio Officers Association to handle the amateur side of this operation and the liaison officer is **David Barlow G3PLE**.

ALL QSOs WILL RECEIVE A QSL VIA THE RSGB BUREAU.

Amateurs are asked to note that there will be NO access to BT sites and following closure and there will be no surplus equipment for sale. Any inquiries from radio amateurs should be routed through **G3PLE**.

Contact details as follows:

David Barlow G3PLE PO Box 50, Helston,
TR12 7YQ

e-mail (for this event) dbarlow@u.genie.co.uk

Event Website: <http://you.genie.co.uk/dbarlow>

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE INSIDE THE AMATEUR RADIO WORLD.

Special efforts will be made to beam towards Commonwealth countries at appropriate times. **Please e-mail details of which frequency band and time suits your part of the world.**

News from RAC.....

Now that your editor is a subscriber to the RAC automailer, RAC bulletins of interest will be summarized in HI-Q.

Effective April 1, 2000, a new service is being provided by RAC to Canadian amateurs (just one more reason why **you** should be a member!) In cooperation with Industry Canada, amateurs may find out what callsigns are available by accessing the RAC website www.rac.ca. The data base is upgraded by Industry Canada every business day.

As of April 18, the IARU (world body for amateur radio) celebrated its 75th anniversary. It is of interest that Canada was one of the founding nations present at the planning meetings.

To be a better-informed amateur operator, visit the Industry Canada website and read their Amateur Radio Information Circulars:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01709e.html>

(There's a wealth of good reading on this site....Ed.)

The following story has been excerpted from Inside Amateur Radio, by the late Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ. The book can be purchased from Worldradio Books, P. O. Box 189490, Sacramento, CA 95818. Price is \$9.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. The excerpt appeared in the March 2000 issue of Worldradio.

The impossible takes longer, of course, but Harry Halvorsen, W6MTI, and his wife pulled off a small miracle.

You see, in the earlier days, each Ham wanted his very own telephone pole in the back yard in order to get his antenna as high as possible. Harry had learned of a “retired” pole available for \$2.50.

He says, “So I was willing to put in a little effort to get it from a horizontal position in the street to a vertical position in our back yard.

“Even so, how do you go about carting home such a package from three miles away? Those poles are heavy! Well, my wife and I did, all by ourselves, with a little help from our old sedan and a rental trailer. One end of the pole was lashed firmly into the trunk of the old sedan and the other end somehow rolled into the trailer. I tied it to the tongue of the trailer.

“So were a six-wheel semi, 65 feet long, and we went home with it that way, right across Firestone Blvd. Fortunately no cops were around, but after all, what could we have been cited for – imitating an 18-wheeler?

“The neighbors helped maneuver it out of the car trunk and trailer alongside the curb in front of our house. Then we had the problem. The neighbor’s fence and our detached garage were just too close to the house for the 50-foot pole to go around the house and into the back yard.

“Just a week earlier, I had tossed a small rock at a stray dog who had been persistently invading our yard. I missed the dog but badly fractured one of the lower window panes at the rear of the house. It just happened to be directly in line with the front door.

“So with a couple of furniture dollies and neighbors, we ran the telephone pole through the front door, out the broken window and into the back yard.

“There were a few passersby who wondered why we had a telephone pole sticking out of the front door. It was the best tower I ever had.”

Anyone for QRP???

The March issue of Radioworld has an excellent writeup on a pint-sized QRP power pack with power to spare (p52-53).

Briefly, it is a 12-volt supply with an in-house charger using common parts. It uses two 6-volt, 600 mAh Ni-Cd packs in series. These are common replacement batteries for cordless telephones. The charging circuit is a simple LM317T three-terminal regulator with a capacitor, a diode and two resistors. The whole thing fits neatly into a Radio Shack case with some minor modifications.

The power pack can be fully slow charged in 15 hours, or 8 hours in the quick-charge mode. The charging input comes via a 16-volt DC wall-plug power cube rated at 700 mAh or better. The author/designer (**KA2BEO**) claims it can deliver up to 1.2 amperes for a half hour (key down). With 4 watts output RF the pack will last more than four hours.

Full circuit details along with a schematic and Radio Shack part numbers can be obtained by visiting the Adventure Radio Society (ARS) web page at www.natworld.com/ars. Once you are on the web site, click on The ARS Sojourner. Then click ARS Archives. From there, click on the Cumulative Index to the ARS Sojourner. Then click on Equipment Techniques. Finally, look for “Build A Portable 12-volt Battery Pack with Built-In Battery Charger”.

You might also try an email to the article’s author, Richard Fisher: K6ISN@aol.com

So you’re not on-line yet? Not to fear. If you want more information, drop a note to:

Richard Fisher, K6ISN, 1940 Wetherly Way, Riverside, CA 92506

This'n that.....

Many thanks to the Rainy Lake Amateur Radio Club for passing on their February newsletter. It was with sadness I read of the death of Riley Dunn, **WA0CEL**, in International Falls. I first met Riley on the air back in the early 1960's and visited with him at his home. My first sideband rig, an SBE34 designed by Sideband Engineers, came about largely through Riley's efforts (and that's another story!). Riley was both a Charter and Life member of the Rainy Lake Club.

Also in the newsletter is a short mention of **Gabe Fritzen** (I can't remember Gabe's VE3 call). Gabe was very active in LARC while working in Thunder Bay. His email address is: tonerexpress@t-online.de

From the **ARNS January/February** issue, an article titled "Life's Rules" excerpted from a book by **Charles Sykes** called "**Dumbing Down Our Kids**".....a few interesting quotes:

- if you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.
- flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different name for burger flipping. They called it "opportunity".
- life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off, and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.
- And finally, be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one!

(Thanks to Al **VA3AMY** for delivering the newsletters. However, the last issue of ARNS looked as if the postal people had tried it for sandwich filling!!!.....Ed.)

From the Arrowhead RAC newsletter....

You six-meter enthusiasts might want to check into the **6-meter net** Wednesdays 2000 (CST) on 53.130 MHz.

From George W8FWG

The "U.P./ Ham Directory-2000" is being produced in limited quantity this year (125 copies). If you are interested in purchasing a copy for three dollars (U.S.) contact George at:

w8fwg@arri.net

Your editor gets a lot of site information, and I am pleased to pass on any web sites that are **directly** related to our hobby. Thanks again to the "nighthawk" (**VA3WRL**) for passing on some of these sites:

www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora if you're interested in aurora effects (and most of us should be since they can greatly affect communications) then this is an interesting site to check out; it has up-to-the minute aurora forecasts

www.qsl.net/wa1urb/1.html into ham radio AND kayaking (not at the same time???) **AXL** should visit this site

<http://fohnix.metronet.com/~nmce.wen/ref.html> I made it into this site after making typo errors a few times. If you are a Morse Code fan (remember Morse???) this is a fascinating site entitled "The Telegraph Office"

Yet another superb site for code "afficionados" can be reached by going to **<GoTo.com>** and clicking on **Sparks Telegraph Key Review**. I had trouble deciphering the site's url.

www.qrparci.org/arcitech.htm the letters "qrp" should be a clue to the contents of this site

And the last site for this month.....

<http://user.itel.net/~equinox/> a site loaded with news pertaining to amateur radio, courtesy of **GJ4ICD/G4ICD**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
held in Room 207B at Confederation College,
Thunder Bay, Ontario on April 13, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the President **VA3RIM**, Ian Mellis with 17 members in attendance. **Silent Key:** a moment of silence was observed in memory of **VE3DPJ**, Peter Boyle who became a silent key on April 11, 2000. Funeral services are to be held Saturday April 15 at 9:00 am.

The meeting commenced with those in attendance introducing themselves and what they have been doing lately with regards to amateur radio.

Minutes of the Meeting held March 9, 2000

The minutes of the meeting held March 9, 2000 were published in detail in the April edition of "HI-Q" and distributed to all members.

Motion: moved by **VA3PP** Pat Pugh and seconded by **VE3RVA** Bob Hansen that the minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried.**

Correspondence:

-letter from City of Thunder Bay re radio tower on Main Street

-letter from CNIB Amateur Radio Program

Motion: moved by **VA3JRS**, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by **VA3BRN**, Gerry Burney that the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club donate \$ 100.00 to the CNIB Amateur Radio Program. **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report: VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of February 29, 2000		\$ 2,973.54
Income:	Membership Fees	<u>35.00</u> 35.00
Expenses:	HI-Q	32.01
	Telephone	<u>40.54</u> 72.55
Balance as of March 31, 2000		\$ 2,935.99

Motion: moved by **VA3JRS** Jan Sokoloski and seconded by **VE3AJ** Bill Klemacki that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

Committee Reports:

-Equipment: **VE3INI**, Andy Malcolm reported that the signal from the Upsala repeater was strong. The antenna needs to be tilted down and there is some work to be done on the controller.

-Community Service: **VE3XLB**, Linda Bell stated that the "Run For Women" is May 13th and the "Ten Mile Road Race" is May 22nd.

-Canwarn: **VA3JMS** John Sacek stated that a refresher Canwarn seminar was in the works planned for an evening.

Motion: moved by **VA3PP**, Pat Pugh and seconded by **VA3JRS** Jan Sokoloski that the Canwarn Training be included in our regular meeting to be held on May 11, 2000. **Carried.**

Motion: moved by **VE3AJ** Bill Klemacki and seconded by **VA3JMS** John Sacek that the business part of the meeting be conducted first with the guest speaker to follow. **Carried.**

New Business:

-Silent Key Policy: what do we do as a Club? At present, there is no set policy. This item will be discussed by the Executive. (Should it not be discussed openly by all members???...Ed.)

-RAC Membership: a general discussion took place regarding membership in Radio Amateurs of Canada as this is the only organization looking after our frequency allocations. Individual amateurs are encouraged to support RAC by being members.

-Show and Tell: VE3AJ Bill Klemacki will do a "show and tell" for the June meeting.

-50/50 Draw: winner of the 50/50 draw was VA3AMY, Al Sokoloski.

Adjournment: moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski that the meeting be adjourned.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED.....

Four volunteers are required for the 21st Annual Run For Women to be held **Saturday, May 13th, 10:00 am** at Boulevard Lake.

Ten volunteers are required for the 10 Mile Road Race to be held Monday, May 22nd starting at 10:00 am.

If you can help out at either of these events, contact **VE3XRC, Norm Bell at 577-9316 or email (ve3xrc@rac.ca)**. Thanks.

News from the "Techies"....

VE3YQT antenna on Mt. Baldy has finally been replaced. Due to a backlog of work the riggers were unable to accommodate us any earlier. They found the old antenna in poor shape with 2 of the ground radials missing and the top support pipe clamp was loose at the tower. Hopefully this was the source of all the noise. Since the new antenna is a 4 bay folded dipole arrangement we would like to know what the repeater coverage is like now. If you venture out North, South, East or West what changes if any, have you noticed? Work is progressing in the UHF area towards getting a couple of repeaters in service this spring. Old commercial mobiles are being modified. Thanks to Bill (**VE3AJ**) for the countless times he has programmed new frequencies into Eprom modules.

There is some local activity in PSK31 (Phase Shift Keying 31 baud). It is a new mode that is really taking off on the HF bands. Like RTTY it is keyboard based, but because of its extremely narrow bandwidth it will tolerate a very poor signal to noise ratio. All that is needed is a computer with a sound card and free software. The Rx audio from your HF rig is connected to the sound card input and the sound card output is fed into the Tx audio input. For more information take a look at <http://www.psk31.com/index.htm> > It is the best site I have found with everything from the current software to interfacing methods.

Andy **VE3INI**

Late breaking new from Mike VE3ZG.....it has been a great Easter weekend...lots of warm weather on Friday, a bit dull and rainy on Saturday, but another great day Sunday.when is the last time we experienced weather like this on an Easter weekend? It usually is anything but nice! Can Spring be far behind?

Four events coming up in May: the Salvation Army canvassing blitz which Norm has well in hand for **May1**; the Run for Women **May 13th**; the Shoppers Drug Mart 10 Mile Road Race on the **23rd**; and the Hip Hip Hooray taking place **May 28th**. Get in touch with Norm **VE3XRC** or **VE3ZG** if you wish to help. Plans for Field Day at the end of June have hit a snag as Hazelwood Lake will not be available, so an alternate location has to be found. Hope to see you at the meeting on the **May 11th**.